



Scot Pourri



Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history? Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Our letters page is a very popular and active one and many readers have been assisted across the world by fellow passionate Scots. Please keep letters under 200 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters, photos and any other items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned. We prefer letters to be emailed to your nearest office or please visit our on line Scotpourri form at www.scottishbanner.com, alternatively you may post or fax your letters to us. Please ensure you include your full contact details, when emailing it is best to include your post address for those without internet access.

This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part! Thanks to all our readers from around the world who have made this such a special page.

The First Queen Mary

In the May edition of the Banner Catherine St. John was asking if any of your older readers remembered the First Queen Mary. I have a story of my own to tell about this great ship. First of all she was built in John Brown's Shipyard in Clydebank Scotland just about five or six miles from Dumbarton where I was born. My father worked on her and my brother George Alistair Paton and I Rebecca Paton sailed on her in March 22nd 1952 from Southampton in England and arrived in New York March 27th. Since that time I have learned many things about her that many people don't know. She was dubbed "The Queen of the Atlantic" nothing like her had ever been built before, with unmatched grace and peerless power she was a floating miracle.

She was converted into a troop carrier for the Allied Forces, painted grey and was called "The Grey Ghost". At the height of the war she was carrying 16,000 people which is still a record. Played a role in every major Allied campaign of World War 2. Adolph Hitler put a \$250,000 bounty for sinking her, but no one ever could. At the end of the war she became a floating hospital to transport wounded. After the war she carried war brides from Europe to the U.S. and Canada.

She was quite a Lady wouldn't you say?

This is way too long to put in a column in the Banner I know and so I trust you will be able to put most of it in as I believe it is so interesting.

Mr. Stevens, USA

Help To Stay In Australia

We are a young couple, originally from Glasgow, we emigrated to Australia 2 years ago with our 18 month old son. We just love it here, however, we moved out on a student visa for me to carry out a hairdressing course, we were told that we would be able to get permanent residency after I completed the course, but now they have changed the rules and decided they don't want hairdressers any more. Since arriving we have also had our second son who is now 6 months old. The only way we can stay in Australia now is for me to gain employer sponsorship in the hairdressing industry.

I am not working at the moment but trying very hard to get a job as I do love hairdressing, but to be honest employers hear the word sponsorship and run a mile.

If anyone out there can help, if they are a hairdresser or if they know one that would be prepared to sponsor us it would be greatly appreciated.

The reason we moved out here is to get away from the crime and violence in Glasgow and all over Scotland these days, for the sake of my 2 boys I really don't want them to be brought up there and my oldest, who is now 3 just loves it here.

We are currently in the Brisbane area, but to be honest we would move to anywhere in Australia to gain sponsorship to keep us here and have the best life possible for our children.

Amanda Stuart

Brisbane

Queensland

Email: [mandymcqueen2 @yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mandymcqueen2@yahoo.co.uk)

Tartan Glamour

My Dad is a regular reader of the Scottish Banner and he showed me the great photos of your tartan fashion story (September 2010). Men in kilts in my opinion are hot! And what great photos of both the men and the women in the article. I am planning my wedding for next year and may just take some inspiration from this as the Veronica McIsaac models are fantastic.

I am born in Australia but reading this reaffirms my pride in my Dad's culture.

Thanks

Kylie Sutherland

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Shirley's Real Fish Supper



Now!! that's a fish supper-haddock that you can still get if you look. This was in Kenmore, Perthshire, Loch Tay, but we found the same in most places down to Dundee.

Shirley Hurt

363 Melanie Ave

Kingston, ON

Canada

Baltic Street

I am responding to Diane Herick's recent enquiry in ScotPourri. I am sorry that I did not know your relatives who lived on Baltic Street in Glasgow.

I lived in "458". Baltic Street was a dividing street with Springfield Road. I believe your relatives must have lived on the right of us. We were to the left in the red sandstone tenement with "Bay Windows, and we were right across the street from Springfield Road school playground.

Sadly, nothing is left of the neighbourhood these days.

I have been an "expat" for 59 years now, but still love to read anything on 'Dear ol' Glesca Toon. Betty (McKay) Gallegos, 4295 Reona Ave., Sumter, S.C, USA. 29154-1521

Tartan-A Fashion Icon

I simply loved the cover of your September issue, what a treat to open the envelope of my monthly subscription to see this lovely lass with so much poise and class. I wear my kilt as much as possible to highland games, Burns Night etc. but it is so refreshing to see tartan so able to go beyond that and into catwalks and the photos of the men in suit kilts were excellent and so stylish. What a great idea to tell us Scotophiles what we can or can't do with our national dress!

I have been getting the Scottish Banner for some years now and really love the mix of current and historical features, it's by monthly connection to home.

Thanks again for a great wee read. Sylvia McCann Auckland, New Zealand

Tartan Auction

The Scottish Associations of South Australia is offering for silent auction for a full kilt length of South Australian Tartan.

Very generously donated by the designer Betty Johnston of The House of Tartan.

Bids must be tendered in writing to:

The Secretary of the Scottish Associations of South Australia, Inc.

P.O. Box 415,

Morphett Vale,

S.A. 5162. B

By Friday, 3rd of December 2010. The Winner will be announced at the December 12th meeting of the Scottish Associations and will be notified by mail.

Sights From The Past

Stories From World War 11 By Ed Goodall, Milton, Ontario. I was surprised to see this story because I was just there at Thurso, Dunnett Head and Orkney Islands two summers ago on a tour.

We were based at Thurso and visited Dunnett Head. The Radar Posts' buildings are still there standing empty. Two concrete block houses without doors or windows not far from the lighthouse looking over the Pentland Firth. I walked around the inside of the empty buildings.

Maybe they were the living quarters for the men. Perhaps one of them should be restored as a reminder of the men who served there.

Then we crossed the Pentland Firth from John O'Groats to Burwick by boat. An Orkney native was our guide on the bus tour. He was excellent and interesting. We saw the Churchill Barriers to keep out submarines, St. Georges Chapel built by Italian prisoners of war, Kirkwall, Skarra Brae 300 B.C., the Standing Stones of Calenish and Stromness. Have you heard the poem?

Cruise ships now stop at the Oil Refinery on Orkney. You can see the ships lights at night from Thurso. Lovely. The oil refinery there is now owned by a Canadian Oil Company in Calgary.

A very good and interesting tour. We had good weather in September.

Thank you. God bless,

John D. Rooney

27 Hillview Ave.

Toronto, ON M6P 1J4

Canada

A Proud Day For Clan Stewart

While I was visiting the "Gathering" in Scotland last year, I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Stewart Society. While there it was my distinct pleasure to meet the First Lady of the Society, the charming Lady Deborah Stewartby, and the Society Commissioner for my region here in the United States, Lt. Comdr. John Glynn of Glynstewart.

Thus my 'favorite issue of the past year is March, when Dr. Moody's article featured his hero, Lady Stewartby's grandfather John Buchan... It was also the first time you welcomed a new Scottish heraldry column by LCDR John Glynn of Glynstewart! T'was a proud day for Clan Stewart. Aye!

There are so many highlights in the Scottish Banner.

Scott Stuart

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Keep those letters coming! We enjoy them - and so do our readers!